ble to any other gas based project, as the power generating units are of conventional type.

(c) The Government may consider setting up of such power units in Kutch area of Gujarat subject to the availability of gas and receiving techno-economically feasible proposal from Gujarat. Exploration activities are going on.

Bureaucratic meddling in promotion of smokeless Chulhas

2002. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the findings of a seminar on Indoor-pollution in developing countries as reported in the Economic Times dated 27th March, 1993;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India could provide only 8 million such Chulhas for rural households during 1992—90 whereas China attained a target of more than 120 million during the same period; and

(c) if so, whether Government would entrust such a vital project aimed at energy conservation to non-governmental organisations so as to avoid bureaucratic meddling causing delays and cost overruns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the report appearing in the Economic Times. The fact is that Indian National Programme is one of the largest programmes in the world, so far over 14 million Improved Chulhas have already been installed throughout the country since inception and it is proposed to install nearly 18 million Improved Chulhas during the 8th Plan period. The programme has contributed significantly in the area of fuel conservation, environmental upgradation, mitigating the drudgery tf women in cooking and collection of fuelwood etc. The details of the China's programme are, however, not known.

(c) The programme is being implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations in addition to the Government Agencies and greater involvement of NGOs, Women Organisations and self employed entrepreneurs etc. is being encouraged to make it self-sustainable.

Anomaly in pay-scales

2003. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a wide spread resentment among Senior Research Assistants/Senior Technical Assistants working in Central Government Departments due to anomaly in their pay-scales;

(b) whether Government have received any representation regarding revision of their pay-scale from Rs. 1640-2900 to Rs. 2000-3200; and

(c) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A proopsal for revision of pay scale of Senior Technical Assistants in the Department of Company Affairs from Rs. 1640-2900 to Rs. 2000-3200 has been received in the Ministry of Finance from the administrative Department very recently. A decision will be taken shortly.

Ban on new recruitments

2004. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of